

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
PM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-01 SSO-00 /035 W  
-----108419 211736Z /43

O R 211712Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6043  
CINC EUR VAHINGEN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03172

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL NATO GW BE US  
SUBJECT: SHAPE-EUCOM COLLOCATION

REFS: (A) CINCEUR ECJ5 2657 DTG 171628Z FEB 78;  
(B) BONN 779 DTG 161124Z JAN 78;  
(C) STATE 4586 DTG 070158Z JAN 78;  
(D) BONN 21141 DTG 221141Z DEC 77;  
(E) BRUSSELS 1137 DTG 191812Z JAN 78

1. THE CHARGE RAISED THE EUCOM-SHAPE WARTIME  
COLLOCATION PROPOSAL WITH FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL  
DIRECTOR BLECH ON FEBRUARY 20. ON THE BASIS OF REFTTEL  
(A), THE CHARGE INFORMED BLECH THAT FUNDS FOR THE  
COLLOCATION PROJECT HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FY-79 DOD  
BUDGET AND THAT THE FIRST HEARINGS ON THE REQUEST WOULD  
BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 27. FOLLOWING UP A REQUEST WE HAD  
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MADE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE THE WEEK BEFORE, THE CHARGE  
ASKED BLECH FOR A STATUS REPORT ON FRG INTERNAL  
CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL.

2. BLECH STATED THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SUBMITTED  
TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT  
IT BE APPROVED, BUT THAT GENSCHER HAD NOT YET ACTED ON

IT. HE ADDED THAT THE MEMORANDUM WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO GENSCHER EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT A DECISION IN FAVOR OF COLLOCATION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND FRG AUTHORITIES, AND THAT THE FRG WOULD RESERVE FOR ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMING THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND STUTTGART AUTHORITIES AT THE PROPER TIME. IT NOTED THAT THE FRG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NEED FOR VERY CAREFUL PRESS TREATMENT, WHICH WAS TO BE HARMONIZED BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES.

3. BLECH ALSO RECALLED THAT THE FRG HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE CONTINGENCY PRESS LINE SHOULD BE MODIFIED IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE DUAL ROLE OF SACEUR/CINCEUR AND TO MAKE EVEN CLEARER THE EMPHASIS ON "WARTIME" COLLOCATION. (THIS SUGGESTION WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL D.)

4. NOTING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF PRESENTING THE MATTER TO THE PUBLIC AT THE PROPER TIME AND IN THE PROPER WAY, BLECH EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE INFORMATION THAT THE PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE DOD BUDGET AND ASKED WHETHER THIS AND THE IMMINENT HEARINGS MEANT THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS LIKELY TO BE SURFACED BY THE PRESS. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED OF THE BUDGET HANDLING AND WAS NOT CERTAIN

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WHETHER THE FEBRUARY 27 HEARINGS WOULD BE OPEN OR

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PM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-01 SSO-00 /035 W

-----108426 211736Z /43

O R 211712Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6044  
CINC EUR VAHINGEN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03172

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CLOSED.

5. BLECH SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS, IN VIEW OF THE DANGER OF EARLY PUBLICITY, THAT AN URGENT DECISION WAS REQUIRED. HE UNDERTOOK TO DO WHATHE COULD TO ASSURE EARLY CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE BY GENSCHER.

6. COMMENT. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY EUCOM (REF A), OUR PROGNOSIS REMAINS THAT THE FRG WILL PROBABLY AGREE EVENTUALLY WITH THE US PROPOSAL. THE CONCERNS WHICH GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED IN THE PAST REMAIN RELEVANT, HOWEVER, AND BLECH'S POINT THAT THE FRG WISHES TO BE THE ONE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE AREA WHICH WILL BE MOST AFFECTED BY THE MOVE REMAINS VALID. IT IS THUS ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOT ATTEMPT IN ANY PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ANTICIPATE A GERMAN DECISION, THUS SEEMING TO ANNOUNCE FRG VIEWS BEFORE THERE HAVE BEEN FEDERAL/LOCAL CONSULTATIONS.  
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7. IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO POSTPONE THE HEARINGS ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL A GERMAN (AND BELGIAN) DECISION IS AT HAND. THE DANGER OF PRESS PLAY WHICH MIGHT ERRONEOUSLY SUGGEST THAT EUCOM WAS MOVING OUT OF STUTTGART WOULD ONLY COMPOUND THE CONCERNS WHICH GERMAN LABOR UNIONS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE EXPRESSING OVER WIDELY PUBLICIZED RECOMMENDATIONS IN DECEMBER THAT US FORCES TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN DEPENDENTS BY REPLACING LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE FEBRUARY 27

HEARINGS DESCRIBED IN REF (A) WILL BE OPEN OR CLOSED;

(B) RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION IN REFTEL (D) CONCERNING  
FRG REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS IN THE CONTINGENCY  
PRESS LINE, ALONG WITH ANY MODIFICATIONS IN THAT LINE  
NECESSITATED BY BELGIAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN PARA 6,  
REF (E).  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION CONTROL, DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNICATION LINES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, GE, BE, US, NATO  
**To:** STATE CINC EUR VAHINGEN  
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